

IMPACT STATEMENT

Modeling and Analysis Procedures used to Identify and Evaluate Potential Critical Habitat Networks for the Northern Spotted Owl

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The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is developing a new recovery plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. One key part of the recovery planning process involves the designation of critical habitat. The methodology that FWS has adopted for determining what habitat is critical involves the use of several computer models. One of those models, HexSim, was developed at the EPA. When FWS completes the development of the new critical habitat rule, it will be posted on an agency web site. This document, which describes the modeling methodology, will also be made available on the same web site. By making this document available, FWS will providing additional information that will help readers to understand exactly how the critical habitat rule was developed.

There are no policy implications associated with this document. This document will accompany other material that does have policy implications. But this document strictly describes a process through which computer models were parameterized and applied.

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